

Commissioner for Patents United States Patent and Trademark Office P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

0 3 NOV 2006

James A. Oliff OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC P.O. Box 19928 Alexandria, Virginia 22320

Dear Mr. Oliff:

This is in response to your letter received 06 September 2006 inquiring about the status of U.S. patent application 10/575,446 filed 12 April 2006. The application will be processed by the U.S. Designated/Elected Office and an Office action will be issued in due course. Please be notified that Office is encountering a backlog up to ten months due to the implementation of the paperless file in processing national stage applications.

Sincerely,

Nguyên Ngoc-Hô Paralegal Specialist PCT Legal Office

Nguyen Negoz Ho

Tel: (571) 272-3290